

ANNALS OF THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND INDEX OF NEW TAXA.

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INTRODUCTION

The *Annals of the Queensland Museum* were published by the Queensland Museum during the years 1891 to 1911. Copies are rare in book collections and it is little known today. To taxonomists, however, this organ is still of great moment. Hundreds of new species of Australian Fauna — particularly vertebrates, insects, and fossils — were described within its pages.

The publication of the *Annals* was not without travail. On 19 November, 1889, the Under Secretary of the Department of Public Instruction gave approval for the first part of the *Annals* to be printed by the Government Printer. Seventeen days later, on 6 December, the approval was withdrawn. This change of mind was affected by direct intervention of the Colonial Secretary. He had been lobbied by the Master Printers Association. The Association was concerned that work for its members was being lost by unfair use of the Government Printer. They argued that the *Annals* was a non-government publication. They succeeded in convincing the Colonial Secretary and a fiat was issued declaring that 'in future all work of a non- or semi-official character should be placed in the hands of private firms'. Needless to say, the Board of Trustees could not afford to go ahead with the printing, and it was delayed for two years.

Difficulty was experienced in obtaining any information about the early days of the *Annals*. The journal was rarely mentioned in the archives of the Museum except for acknowledgments of its receipt from learned societies and other institutions. The publication of the first issue of the *Annals* in 1891 was a significant event in the history of natural science in Queensland. Very few learned journals were printed in the Colony at that time. Most natural history papers were submitted to the Royal Society of Queensland for publication in its *Proceedings* or to the weekly newspaper, the *Queenslander*. Newspapers did not have scientific respectability, and the *Proceedings* could not accommodate all the

papers written. The *Annals* gave the promise of valuable and respectable printed space.

The journal did not live up to this promise because of the vicissitudes of the depression of that decade and the early part of this century. Whether an issue was printed depended on whether the Department of Public Instruction, on submission, voted the monies to meet the cost. Often there was no money. Few authors could chance a long delay. These circumstances placed the Curator (later the Director), C.W. de Vis, in the best position to exploit the *Annals* as a publication outlet. Of the forty papers which appeared, twenty-five were his.

The *Annals* were superseded by the *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* in 1912. This change of title ended the embarrassment of not publishing an annals annually. During the twenty-one years of its existence, it appeared only ten times.

The dates of publication of the ten issues were:-

- No. 1. Jul, 1891 (before 22nd)
- No. 2. May, 1892 (before 6th)
- No. 3. Jul, 1897 (before 19th)
- No. 4. Jan, 1898 (before 31st)
- No. 5. Jan, 1901 (before 26th)
- No. 6. Sep. 1905 (before 30th)
- No. 7. 7 Jun, 1907
- No. 8. 23 Mar, 1908
- No. 9. 14 Oct, 1908
- No. 10. 1 Nov, 1911

The dates for Numbers 7 to 10 were printed on the frontispiece of each issue. Number 6 had 'Sept., 1905' hand-written on all the issues I saw. This date was confirmed in the minutes of the Board of Trustees of 30th September, 1905. Numbers 1 to 5 have only the year of publication printed on the frontispiece. The more precise dates for these issues were elucidated from archival material. The dates for Numbers 2 and 5 were taken from the minutes of the Board of 6 May, 1892 and 26 January, 1901 respectively. The dates for Numbers 1, 3, and 4 were assumed from the earliest acknowledgement of receipt from outside organizations. These should be accurate

because most organizations quickly acknowledged donations.

The dates given here for Numbers 4 and 5 are different years to those printed on their frontispieces (1897 and 1900 respectively). For the purposes of priority for taxonomic nomenclature, however, the differences are of little import. Where only the year of publication is known, the 'International Code of Zoological Nomenclature' stipulates the last day of that year as the publication date.

The bibliography is an alphabetical list by author of all papers which appeared in the *Annals*. The index is divided into two categories, 'Fossil Taxa' and 'Recent Taxa'. Within these categories all new genera, species and subspecies are listed under major group headings. No new families were designated.

I made no decisions about the validity of names. Names are listed even if they were *nomina sp.*. The new names in the two papers of Volume 2 are included although they were predated by the nearly identical papers in the *Annual Report on British New Guinea 1890-1891*.

The authors of the names can be accessed simply if needed. De Vis authored all the fossils and recent birds, mammals and reptiles. He also described one fish (*Enoplosus serotinus*) and one spider (*Nephila maculata piscatorum*). Lamb authored all the amphibia and spider names except for the one spider by de Vis. Ogilby authored all the fish except for the one species by de Vis. The Coleoptera were all described by Carter, the Hemiptera by Tryon, and the one cestode by Johnston. The Lepidoptera were authored by Turner except for those from Volume 1 which were by Miskin.

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